



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

STATE LODGE OF MICHIGAN



March 16, 2006

Representative Phil LaJoy
785 Anderson House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative LaJoy:

As Executive Director of Michigan's oldest and largest law enforcement organization, I am writing to clarify an issue revolving around specialty license plates. An argument often made against additional plates is that they make law enforcement more difficult. The Michigan Fraternal Order of Police is made up of over 12,000 law enforcement professionals who work tirelessly to protect our streets and neighborhoods. My membership has never raised the issue of varying license plates as an impediment to their ability to do their job.

You have introduced HB 5840, which would allow for a Support Our Troops fundraising license plate. As you know, the revenue generated from this plate will go to the families of fallen or injured soldiers and will be distributed to the families through a number of already established charitable entities. The Support Our Troops plate is an avenue to raise funds for the families of our troops and help support those in need. It also enables the people of Michigan to show their support by making a recurring contribution.

The license plate proposed in the legislation does not hinder enforcement because of its standardized design. The plate has a white background, a standard location for the plate numbers, and the large blue top banner with MICHIGAN in bold lettering that is found on **all** specialty plates in Michigan. The only two areas where a charitable organization may insert its information is the phrase at the bottom and the small 3.5" x 3.5" graphic area on the left side. Law enforcement personnel know where to look for the pertinent information to continue protecting the citizens of Michigan.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

John Buczek
Executive Director